New York Tribune.

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The Wilson Programme of "Certainty" Offers No Hope to Business.

President Wilson says in his jaunty way that business men ought to shake off all their worries because he has now arranged everything so as to give them rest and peace. If they will only take his word for it they may emerge from the shadow of discontent and depression and get ready to enjoy "a boom in business such as we have never witnessed in the United States."

According to the President the long period of agitation, apprehension and feverish guessing is over. The business world has only to accept from him "a sober and sensible programme, now completed," out of which will issue "rest, recuperation and successful adjustment." What Mr. Wilson especially promises the harassed business man is *certainty*. In his wonderful rhapsody the other day to the Virginia Editorial Association he said:

> I cannot get rest if you send me to bed wondering what is going to happen to me in the morning, but if you send me to bed knowing what the course of business is to be to-morrow morning I can rest. How much better is *certain justice* to the man engaged in business!

"Certain justice" is an inspiring ideal, even though it still belongs in the realm of psychology. But how is it being realized in the measures which Mr. Wilson has urged Congress to pass and with which the Senate is now painfully struggling? Instead of putting greater certainty into the laws against monopoly and restraint of trade the Wilson programme, as developed so far, merely creates new confusion.

Take the flim-flam provisions in the Clayton bill with regard to the responsibilities and immunities of farmers' and union labor organizations. Those provisions were intended to be interpreted one way by Mr. Gompers, who says that they give "a new charter of freedom" to labor, and another way by Mr. Wilson, who says that they do not alter in any material way the status of labor and farmers' organizations. Both interpreters want to get political advantage out of the trick they have played with language in the Clayton bill. Both are perfectly willing to pass the puzzle up to the courts, which will have to say eventually whether Mr. Wilson overreached Mr. Gompers or Mr. Gompers overreached Mr. Wilson. To clarify the law was furthest from the thoughts of those who concocted and passed the subterfuges which either exempt or merely pretend to exempt union laborers and farmers from prosecution for combining to control wages and prices.

Take, again, the provision of the Newlands interstate trade commission bill ordering the prosecution of those who engage in "unfair trade" or "unfair competition." What is "unfair trade"? It is a term outside the law, which could be interpreted according to the whim of the prosecuting authority. The Federation of Labor used to keep an "unfair" list and a "we don't patronize" list. Are these to be accepted as authoritative by the new federal commission when it starts after persons who engage in "unfair trade" and "unfair competition"? Or will the commission seek to settle its doubts by conferring with that great arbiter on the proper conduct of business, Secretary William C. Redfield?

Will business men sleep any the sounder because of the obscurities which Congress is injecting into the meaning of the anti-trust law? We do not see how they can possibly accept as a programme of "certainty and justice" the crude and ambiguous legislation which the President is trying to force through Congress. That legislation, changing from day to day and still unbaked, is a cause of nightmares rather than pleasant dreams. If the President wants to see business sleep soundly and rise refreshed he should drop his programme of uncertainty and unjust class discrimination and let Congress adjourn.

China Seeking Salvation.

The Chinese Republic seems to be slowly but surely working out its political salvation. The experiment of republicanism there was looked upon with much doubt by the world, partly by those who had little sympathy with it and partly by those who did not appreciate the essentially democratic disposition and traditions of the Chinese people. Those doubts were strengthened by the fluctuating fortunes of the new regime, and to many they seemed to be fully vindicated by the coup d'état through which Mr. Yuan made himself supreme.

But while Mr. Yuan made himself for the time dictator, he did not establish a dictatorship. That heartening fact is now apparent in his promulgation of a provisional constitution. His seizure of arbitrary power was not the gaining of a selfish end, but a means to the establishment of popular constitutional government on a secure and practical basis such as had not been provided by the doctrinaire talkfest into which the once promising National Assembly had resolved itself.

The provisional constitution, which is likely to be merely amplified into a permanent instrument, must impress the discriminating observer as immeasurably preferable to the former proposals of the Assembly. The most radical difference is in the status of the President. The former scheme would have made him the mere figurehead which the President is in France. Mr. Yuan's plan is to make him closely resemble the President of the United States in actual power and responsibility. On general principles Americans would prefer the latter to the former. On the special ground of suitability to Chinese requirements there can scarcely be any question between them. The French system would mean chaos; the American is hopeful of order and success.

Every nation should feel a benevolent interest in [the] welfare of every other. In the case of China [this] is greatly intensified by the [consideration?] [of the] vast social [and] political problems which China presents to the world depends upon the character of the government which is established in that country. The yellow race itself is to determine whether the "yellow peril" is real or fanciful. That is the circumstance which will cause thoughtful people the world over to regard with gratification the tenor of China's new constitution and to hope that it will prove at last the basis of a stable government with which all other governments can have rational, satisfactory and mutually advantageous dealings.

A Respite for St. John's.

Thanks to the arrangement worked out by Mr. McAneny, representing the city authorities, and the Trinity Corporation, St. John's Chapel will not need to be destroyed in the widening of Varick street. This is a matter for congratulation. The fine old church building perhaps does not receive the general public admiration to which it is entitled, but it is too valuable historically and architecturally to be destroyed in cold blood.

In agreeing to maintain St. John's for religious purposes for two years longer—the promise on which the city is to pay the expense necessary to its preservation during the subway work—Trinity Corporation admitted itself wrong in its previous attitude on one of two counts. It admitted either that church work of value could be carried on there, or that the corporation had some duty to the public other than to conduct its church affairs on a successful basis. It is fortunate that this consciousness of error occurred in time to save the building. In two years some plan may be formed for its permanent preservation.

The Police Games.

The support the public gave to the police games for the Honor Roll Relief Fund was distinctly gratifying. A handsome sum was raised from the ticket sales for the two days, which will do away with the necessity for making special appeals for immediate aid for the widows and children of policemen killed in the course of duty, such as have frequently been made heretofore. And the police should be proud to know that this money came not from the semi-blackmailing tactics by which tickets for gang leaders' dances are unloaded on their victims, but from a straightforward sale of tickets for general use.

This city is taking a great deal of interest in its police force, as it should, and is coming to feel considerable pride in the men. It knows and respects their personal bravery—the cowards who have been in that department could be counted on the fingers of one hand. It respects even more the fine spirit of loyalty to the service and the increasing sense of responsibility and delicacy of honor which the bluecoats are manifesting. In everything which tends to make him a more efficient employe of the city and a straighter-thinking, cleaner-living man, the public will stand behind the policeman. Its support of the police games was merely an earnest of that feeling.

Child Labor in the Tenements.

With Babies' Week fresh in our minds, the testimony of George A. Hall, of the New York Child Labor Committee, has special significance. To save the lives of babies and start them on the road with sturdy bodies is a fine thing. But if as soon as their hands become large enough and their arms strong enough they are to be turned into dull machines, hopelessly stunting their mental and physical growth, the earlier work seems waste and folly.

The task of the girl of fourteen who for making 576 violets received 10 cents, with a weekly earning of $2, is an extreme but typical example of the sort of work upon which the child laborer of the tenements wears out hopes and health. The retrogression in such cases is a matter easily observed. The dull, repeated effort saps nerves, mind and courage. The end is a dwarfed human being, without possibility of reaching full development.

It is Mr. Hall's view that child labor in the tenements should be abolished altogether. Perhaps this drastic remedy is necessary. At any rate, the facts appearing will secure a hearty public support for any legislation the committee may purpose that affords a hope of betterment.

Dangers of the After-Dinner Speaking Habit.

Army and navy officers who make after-dinner speeches ought to be models of discretion. They should remember that what they say about foreign states and rulers may compromise the government. Rear Admiral Coghlan was a first-class officer, but when he recited "Hoch der Kaiser" at a public dinner he broke the very salutary rule of thinking first and talking afterward.

According to some reports of the speech he made at the dinner of the Sons of the American Revolution Brigadier General Evans laid himself open to the charge of lack of diplomatic judgment. If he said, "I'm glad we did have that trouble with the Queen of Spain, for she was old and not feeling well that summer, and she was about our size," he sacrificed discretion to a desire to be semi-humorous. The form he gave to his idea was in bad taste, to say the least. The offence may not be serious enough, perhaps, to call for official notice. But it should serve to warn other officers against saying things in public which may give umbrage to nations with which we are living on terms of friendship.

More About the High-Brow Tax.

Remarks of ours on the tax on long words urged by Mr. Leonard Hatch in the "Century" as one way to refill the treasury have provoked discussion in "The New York Evening Post" by Mr. Edmund Lester Pearson—a distinguished librarian with an even more distinguished sense of humor. "It is hard to discover the reason for this assault upon long words," objects Mr. Pearson. "Are long words—except in the rural newspapers and as a kind of heavy jest—in such high favor? Not, surely, in the days of 'big' novels, full of 'good red blood,' that 'grip' the reader! It was not so very long ago that a fad travelled through the schools to the effect that only short words of Saxon origin were to be encouraged . . . A ban upon 'commence'; pupils were to say 'begin' instead."

An excellent beginning. But, Mr. Pearson, it was at commencement time, precisely at the moment when long Latin words were being trotted out of their stalls in the unabridged dictionary to do a turn on the platform, while editor and politicians and ministers and Sweet Sixteen urged the word along the path of sweetness and light and uplift—it was at this very depressing moment that we penned our hasty lines about a tax on polysyllables. Is the tax indeed unnecessary? So much the better. We are easy to suit. The main thing is simplicity.

After all, we do not mind long words half so much (if only they're correctly used) as words out of which much repetition has squeezed the juice and symbolism. For the word is properly a living organism, like any other—with its root, its flower and (sometimes, at least) its fruit; and the much using of a word has the same effect upon it that the abuse of any living thing must have—it dries up. When we can supply the rest of a phrase without listening to more than the speaker's first few words his speech falls flat and dead upon our jaded ears. Samuel G. Blythe, of "The Saturday Evening Post," has heard (and overworked) much commonplace language, and in a serial story that is current now he makes a United States Senator give to a young spellbinder of great expectations ironic counsel respecting his advancement. As a rather complete guide to how not to speak, Mr. Blythe's screed is worth reprinting in part:

> It is imperative that you should never view except with alarm nor point except with fear. Furthermore, you must always assert without fear of successful contradiction, condemn in unmeasured terms, challenge the statement, issue a defi, lock horns with, stamp as unworthy, measure swords with, hew to the line, declare it is a deliberate and malicious falsehood, show neither fear nor favor, remark in passing, nail the lie, have your attention called, demand to see the books, turn on the light, insist the rascals shall be turned out, give an accounting of your stewardship, make clear the issues, express sublime faith in the wisdom, patriotism and justness of the people, and say this is the greatest Republic on which the sun ever shone.

A treasure-trove for emergent officeseekers!

But a variation on the Hatch plan for taxing long words—a second variation, for the first is to tax every one of Mr. Blythe's horrible rubber stamps—would be to levy upon authors and orators whenever they overwork their own favorite terminology. Every time Mr. Roosevelt is "strenuous" or Jack London is "virile"; every time Mr. Smith-Jones, the eminent book reviewer of the monthly "Dry-as-Dust," finds Masefield "significant" or Theodore Dreiser "suggestive"; every time Mr. Woodrow Wilson is "psychological" or Mr. Henry James remarks that some one, something, is "wonderful"—score up obols and drachmæ for the central government.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"Is there any truth to the assertion made by scientists," asked a young man recently, "that when a man and a woman have lived together for some time their facial characteristics assume a similarity?"

The man to whom the question was put was supposed to be a scientist, but he chose to regard the question in a humorous light.

"There most certainly is," he replied. "I know a man who married a widow, and she was constantly reminding him of her first husband."

"I never escape without a beating," moaned the Egg.

"Everybody's always stringing me," lamented the Bean."—Baltimore American.

A very talkative little girl, who had been chattering away like a magpie all morning, suddenly became silent when a lady, dressed in the extreme of the fashion, called on her mother. Wishing to be amiable, the visitor said to the chatterbox:

"Have you lost your tongue, my dear?"

"Oh, no, ma'am," was the reply; "only my breath."

Any English yacht that can win the America's Cup will be regarded as something of a freak.—Washington Star.

When George Fred Williams was appointed Minister to Greece a friend of the old fighting days of the Massachusetts Democracy wrote him extending his congratulations. In reply came a letter in which the man from Dedham expressed his belief that it "would prove a most delightful and congenial post." Now that friend wonders if Williams had an idea of projecting himself into the Balkan troubles when he wrote that letter.

If you misdirect a letter and think of your error just after you have dropped the letter into a box, don't waste time waiting for the postman and asking him for it to let you correct your mistake. He won't do it; the law does not permit him. You must call at the station to which the letter is going and explain the matter to the clerk in charge. He will redirect the letter for you if you give him the correct address in writing.

American tourists and agents abroad should also remember that they are "sample Americans," whether they intend it or not.—Chicago Herald.

A new "tip extractor," in the shape of a large paper bag, has made its appearance on Pullman cars. Shortly after the train starts the porter comes through, and with a polite bow takes each woman's hat and incases it in one of these bags. "Just to keep the dust off it," according to the porter. Of course, the customary tip is expected when destination is reached.

Young Attorney—What rotten luck! That prisoner has a roll that would choke a chimney and a perfect alibi!—Toledo Blade.

How many stripes in the American flag? Thirteen, of course—yet there's an American flag flown legally to-day which has sixteen stripes. It is the flag of the revenue cutter service, and the stripes are vertical, not horizontal, as in the ordinary ensign. The stripe nearest the staff is red, then come white and red alternately, so that the outermost stripe is white. The reason for the sixteen stripes is found in the fact that when the revenue flag was authorized, in 1799, there were sixteen states in the Union, three having joined the original thirteen.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

New York is moving to get rid of its "fake" music teachers. If it follows up the innovation with war on fake music it will deserve a medal.—Chicago Daily News.

New York appears to be in earnest in wanting honest elections. No surer proof could be found than the fact that dishonest election officials are being sent to jail. And the jail test of earnestness in law enforcement is final.—Baltimore American.

White suits for men have become a growing fad in New York. If fashion should ever decree them for general summer wear a blow would be struck at the smoke evil.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A New York policeman shot and killed a burglar, which is such a complete reversal of the usual order in such cases as to be worthy a full inch of newspaper space.—Ottawa Citizen.

A New York policeman was saved from footpads by his sweetheart. What a pity the moving picture men were not present!—Birmingham Age-Herald.

A man who tried to get $250 out of a New York bank with a wire hook escaped and was lost in the crowd. Cherchez the man who owes a week's bill at a fashionable hotel and cannot pay up.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

New York brokers have been swindled. But it required a fellow broker to turn the trick.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

In 1907 New York had twenty-two killed and 422 wounded on the Fourth; last year one was killed and twenty-two hurt. Philadelphia, where the good old noisy methods prevail, had 255 killed and wounded in 1907 and 343 last year. Enough said.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

New York seems to object to blue sky laws as strenuously as it would object to sky blue laws.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

New York City is the leading market for common brick in the United States, says an exchange. But what it spends for common brick it more than gets back for gold bricks.—Albany Argus.

A SHORT CUT.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

"DICTATION AND BUNK"

A Caustic Critic's Characterization of the Wilson Mexican Policy.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: One or two points about this Mexican muddle I'd like to have explained. Why is it that for the last year this administration has proclaimed that all it desired was peace in Mexico and yet it has rejoiced in and encouraged Villa's bloody campaign in the north? Why is it that the military rule of Huerta was anathema in Washington and the iron handed and brutal Villa is a hero because he deposes civil officials and treats his "supreme chief" with the utmost contempt? It seems to me when one analyzes the Wilson policy toward Mexico that the part of it which is in the clouds is just pure bunk for home consumption and the part of it which is on the earth is simply intolerant dictation that will stop at nothing to carry its point. Am I right?

EDWARD AINSLIE.

Stapleton, Staten Island, June 26, 1914.

A VILLA FOR A HUERTA

The Exchange Not Deemed To Be Lofty Idealism.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The sum total of accomplishment in Mexico to which Wilson and Bryan can point with pride as the result of more than a year of stupendous effort is the promotion, enrichment and idealization of a notorious Mexican bandit, Villa. The sum total of disaster for which this precious pair of meddlers is responsible is the exile and impoverishment of thousands of American residents of Mexico, absolute loss of American prestige in Latin America, the reaping of ridicule and contempt from the European capitals, the ruin and devastation of Mexico, the unnecessary and shocking sacrifice of our fighting men at Vera Cruz, the expenditure of millions of money, and an uncertain future. To "get Huerta" they had to raise up a Villa. If one can call that lofty idealism he is suffering from the same psychological ailment as our worthy President and his genial Secretary of State. And if they finally succeed in "getting" Huerta, who knows but that the next disastrous job will be to "get" Villa?

EDMUND STUMER.

June 26, 1914.

REPUBLICANS AND PROGRESSIVES

Reunion for 1916 Depends Only on Truce Between Leaders.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: When in 1912 the bulk of the Roosevelt delegates withdrew from further participation in the Republican National Convention at Chicago their action was apparently predicated upon the refusal of the convention to unseat certain accredited delegates to the convention and seat contesting delegations whose votes would have given the Presidential nomination to Roosevelt instead of to Taft. But the real cause of the disaffection lay deeper than this. It consisted in the general feeling of dissatisfaction among the more progressive element in the Republican party with the element representing reactionary or "stand-pat" views, and which was believed to be more or less subservient to unprincipled forces both in business and politics.

Loyalty to the party name and a disbelief in the justness of the imputations against the party leaders rather than indifference to the moral issues involved doubtless account for the fact that in November, 1912, more than three millions of Republican voters stood by the candidates of their party.

If we carefully study the political events of 1912, and if we eliminate the personal conflict between Roosevelt and Taft and concede that those who were then dominant in the councils of the Republican party were reactionaries, we shall see that the Progressive defection arose chiefly from the character of the Republican leadership and was not caused by a deep-seated hostility among the rank and file of voters against Taft or the principles he represented. Had the Taft forces given their consent to the seating of the contesting delegations, with the consequent nomination of Roosevelt, and then if a platform substantially as advanced as that which the Progressives themselves put forward had been adopted by the Republican National Convention, there can be no doubt whatever that the masses of the Republican voters would have ratified the convention's decision, and it is probable that Roosevelt would then have received a majority of the popular vote, though it is not certain that he would have been elected.

These statements are not made for the purpose of retraversing the ground of ancient political history, much less with a view to reviving the hostilities engendered by the campaign of 1912. It is only sought to show what seems to be the fact, namely, that the contest was one of leadership, involving principles, it is true enough, but principles to which the great masses of Republicans are generally willing to give their assent could they do so without wrenching themselves from the party affiliations of a lifetime, with their sentimental memories.

It is safe to say that any reasonable number of men selected from the moderately progressive element in the Republican party and an equal number representing the sane element in the Progressive party could get together at the present time and agree on a method of uniting the divided forces in the two parties on a programme that would command the practically unanimous support of the voters in both parties, and this without the sacrifice of a single principle considered material by either side.

Between the radical leaders in the new party and the stand-pat leaders in the Republican party there is indeed a wide gulf, which may never be bridged. But between the rank and file of plain, honest citizens in both parties, who neither wish to rush blindly ahead nor to stand still, but who wish to advance sanely and wisely toward a solution of our social and industrial problems consistent with the humane and intelligent spirit of present day American civilization, there is not the division of a hair's breadth.

Were there any real ground of disagreement, any vital principles, separating these now disunited factions the conflict should go on and no sacrifice of principle be made to expediency. That is not the situation. There are certain irreconcilable leaders on both sides whose voices are still for war, but the masses of voters in the Republican and Progressive parties are tired of purposeless dissensions and demand that the warring leaders ground their arms and unite on a common policy of sound progress for the campaign of 1916.

Such a reunion as is herein indicated would give the country assurance of speedy deliverance from the intolerable conditions superinduced by the powers now regnant at Washington.

ELMER H. YOUNGMAN.

253 Broadway, New York, June 24, 1914.

FOR WHITMAN FOR GOVERNOR

Also for Mr. Roosevelt, So Voters May Dispose of Him.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Tribune of yesterday reports Mr. Whitman as saying:

"I am going to run in the Republican primaries. I am not going to seek anything from Colonel Roosevelt or Mr. Barnes. But I am going to offer myself to the people of New York State, and if they want my services they are perfectly welcome to them and can have them."

I believe the people of New York State will be glad to have Mr. Whitman serve them as Governor, and I earnestly hope Mr. Roosevelt can be induced to run. It will give the people a chance to dispose of him for good, I hope, as well as the other bosses, Murphy and Barnes.

H. KEPPEL.

1841 62d st., Brooklyn, June 26, 1914.

LAND BOOMS AND BUSINESS

Abolishment of Real Estate Speculation the Real Panic Cure.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your correspondent A. L. Brown suggests a business men's league. But business men don't know how to use the leagues they now have. Why more? For a century we have been having every ten years a financial panic and a long business depression. How many business men know the causes of our panics? How many leagues will even permit a discussion of the causes? Business men do not want to know, and any more leagues would merely blacken the Cimmerian ignorance they now possess. In New York City, out of 5,000,000 consumers of business men's products, about 5,000 own all the land. This 5,000 run rents up when business is good and keep them up until business is almost paralyzed. When rents drop—that is, when land recedes in value, when real estate becomes a drug in the market—business starts up again. How many business men's associations have given a moment's thought to the relation of our land system to business? How many can see the connection between rent and purchasing power? How many will fight to a finish a proposition to relieve business of its tax burdens and shift them to land? How many are willing that rent shall go down and purchasing power go up? Are business men willing to have continued business prosperity, or would they rather continue to speculate in vacant land and have their banks loan depositors' money on vacant land? When business men learn to leave land speculation alone, when banks loan funds on improvements and to tradesmen only, when the workingman waits until he needs a home before investing in land, we shall cease to have "real estate booms." On that day business will enter a period of permanent prosperity which the federal government cannot create or destroy. Our trouble is local, the remedy is local, but most business men are like the stoker in the hold—they shovel away till they hit an iceberg and then they all go down together. The wonder of it all!

JAMES P. KOHLER.

Brooklyn, June 26, 1914.

TIME FOR "ANTIS" TO YIELD

The 90 Per Cent Fairy Tale Deserves To Be Forgotten.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A few years ago Dr. Shaw stated that 8 per cent of women were enrolled as in favor of woman suffrage and 1 per cent were enrolled as opposed to woman suffrage; since that time the anti-suffragists have adopted the 91 per cent not enrolled, and almost every day, in some paper or other, we read: "Dr. Anna Shaw referred to 8 per cent being in favor and 92 per cent opposed to woman suffrage"; also, of this 8 per cent, they are taken "from the cradle to the grave," "according to their own figures," the suffragists themselves say, and like statements, all of which are perversive.

Is it not time to call a halt? If the anti-suffragists know of any way of determining accurately how many are on each side, why do they not give figures of their own?

Any honest person knows that many women are like many men—they are on the side of the person with whom they are talking at the time; others, like other men, "have not made up their minds" when they do not wish to engage in an argument. Still, there are others who honestly change their minds, so that it is impossible even by a canvass to ascertain any definite figures.

We have, however, the results of actual experience in Colorado for twenty years and in other states a less time, and wherever women are free to do as they please—that is, vote or not—more than half of them have actually voted.

Since they have the vote, if they do not want it they could easily vote to disfranchise themselves, but they don't.

Can't the "antis" invent something new?

W. GRANT BOWER.

New York, June 25, 1914.

JUDGE LYNCH FOR GANGS

A Stronger Arm than the Law's Needed, Thinks This Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I read in the morning newspapers to-day a dispatch, dated Chicago, which gives the alarming intelligence that during the last three years and a half there have been in that city 125 murders. That dispatch also says:

"The police admit themselves helpless to apprehend the murderers. There have been hundreds of arrests and no convictions."

Now, I'm a law-abiding citizen, but all the same I think that sometimes the old saying, "The end justifies the means," holds good. In fact, I am convinced from a close study of the condition of affairs in Chicago and New York City and from historical knowledge of what other cities in the United States in the past have done to put an end to the murderous doings of a certain class in this country that the vigilance committee system would be the most thorough.

There was good proof of the value of vigilance committee work in California during the gold period in '49 and in New Orleans a few years ago, when several murderers were strung up in a bunch on a public square. We have a "Little Sicily" on the upper East Side of this city, and gang spots on the lower East Side and on the upper West Side, and their doings have been almost as bad as in Chicago's "Little Sicily."

If in every Assembly district in greater New York there were secretly chosen by the respectable citizens a man who would be a member of the vigilance committee for the good of the whole city, the knowledge of the existence of such a committee would put an end to the "plug uglies" and their employers, and the end would justify the means.

RIGHT AND MIGHT.

New York, June 26, 1914.

DOES THE CHURCH SATISFY?

A Critic Says "No," and Explains Why.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: While the recent letters to The Tribune dealing with Christianity have been without exception interesting, few if any of them appear to the writer to have struck at the root of matters. Above all questions concerning heaven and hell and disputes over Biblical contradictions the one question which should rise supreme is, Has Christianity fulfilled or is it fulfilling its mission to the world?

We go for an answer to representative men of the day, such as Dr. Eliot for example, and find that the Church has thus far been more of a negative than a positive factor in human progress. With our own eyes we see that there are still millions whose lives are raised only slightly above those of the beasts; millions for whom there is no place for an inspiring thought, let alone an opportunity to attend church services. Is it not a terrible indictment of the Church that such conditions should remain after some 1,900 years it has had in which to exert its influence?

There will doubtless be some to say that these things are not a part of Christianity—that its duty is fulfilled in dispensing charity. But in adopting this view such persons are merely expressing the attitude of the Church for the last nineteen centuries, an attitude which has made the Christian religion sterile of truly great results.

After all is said and done, it is not Christianity itself which is at fault, but those who have interpreted it to suit their wishes. Christ's teachings concerning "the least of these," His admonition to "Love thy neighbor" and to be "servant of all," have been ignored; nay, worse than ignored. They have been changed from the virile things He meant them to be to be conscience-soothing dogmatism. How many Christians of to-day are religious in the full sense of the term? How many under our present social system can even begin to apply their religion in a big way to their daily lives?

If the Church does not satisfy, it is for the reason that it has slurred over or passed by the spirit of human brotherhood, the very essence of all religion. And the only remedy is for it to make this spirit a living part of the Christian creed by applying it without restraint to our social ills. Such a course implies a change in our economic system and therefore affects our very lives. But of what value is religion unless it affects our lives and those of others for betterment?

That is what will happen when the Church really awakens to its opportunity. There will result an incalculable and unprecedented betterment of all mankind. It seems that our common sense alone should dictate that the spirit of human brotherhood be crystallized by constructive change. It should be evident to a savage that a world in which all men could live beautiful lives would be better for all concerned than a world in which a large portion must be deprived of all aspirations, moral, ethical and spiritual. We are going ahead, with or without the Church. Whether it shall have a part in the regenerating process, whether Christianity shall continue a mere recitation of dogma or shall become a vital factor for progress, rests with the Church members themselves.

E. W. VAN VALKENBURGH.

East Orange, N. J., June 25, 1914.

The Endless Chain Prayer.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish to raise my voice against various religious fanatics who are continually sending out their ridiculous ideas broadcast.

Not long ago I received a postal through the mail. On it was written a short prayer. Directly below it were words which read to the effect that on refusal to rewrite it and send it to a friend (thus breaking the chain), I was to be beset with many misfortunes and direful was to be my way through life. On the other hand, on my willingness to do as it requested great were to be the blessings that were to be showered upon me.

I am not in the least superstitious and would have passed it by had not my mother (who is somewhat addicted to superstition) chanced to come across it. It immediately set my mother worrying, which might have caused her much unnecessary annoyance had not I yielded to her desire and sent a copy of the postal to a friend.

No one knows how much worry and depression have been caused by the unscrupulous ideas of these execrable persons.

J. E. LANBUD.

New York, June 25, 1914.